

WOMAN'S WORK

Conducted by Miss Carrie Lee Campbell

PRAYER.

"When they had prayed the place was shaken wherein they were gathered together, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Can these experiences of the first century be repeated?—W. E. Dougherty.

HOW THE AUXILIARY CIRCLE PLAN CAME TO PROGRESSVILLE.

Mrs. E. D. Brown.

Characters.

Officers of the Progressville Women's Societies of the First church:

Ladies' Missionary Society—Mrs. Allgood, president (for thirty years); Mrs. Learner, secretary; Mrs. Holdfast, treasurer.

Ladies' Aid Society—Mrs. Hustle, president; Mrs. Quilting, secretary; Mrs. I. S. Cream, treasurer.

Young Ladies' Benevolent and Aid Society (organized in 1885).

Miss Waitstill Long, president; Mrs. Olden, secretary; Miss Mary Younger, treasurer, charter members of the society.

Note: Enlarge on this as you think best. The words of the various speakers may be changed or added to in order to adapt them to the local conditions, being careful that no one's "feelings are hurt" by a too personal allusion. Have everything move forward with briskness and vigor and do not fear too much fun so that it points a moral.

Scene 1: The Church Parlor.

Enter Mrs. Allgood. (She carries a few flowers. For these she finds a vase, and then begins to rearrange the chairs and table.)

Mrs. Allgood: I do feel so uneasy about this meeting! That Auxiliary Circle Plan will be an entirely new thing to our First church women and we do not like changes.

(Enter Mrs. Quilting, of the "Aid.")

Mrs. Quilting: Oh, Mrs. Allgood, here you are on time and at work as usual! I don't know what that Ladies' Missionary Society would do without you. You simply do everything that's done, and then help us in the Aid Society, too.

Mrs. Allgood: I do what I can, my dear. I often wish that more of our women were interested, but it's usually the faithful few who do the work in all our societies, I've found. Here comes Mary Younger.

(Enter Miss Younger.)

Miss Younger: What's that about the "faithful few"? You're surely one of them, Mrs. Allgood. Who is to preside over this meeting of officers to-day? Somebody who can explain the Circle Plan, I hope, since that is what we are to discuss.

Mrs. Allgood: Mrs. Learner will preside. You know she was our delegate from the Ladies' Missionary Society to the Presbyterian this year and she came home enthused with the idea of one Auxiliary in the Church instead of our three societies. How this is to be managed I cannot imagine, but I suppose Mrs. Learner can explain it. Here she comes now.

(Enter Mrs. Learner, followed by the other officers.)

Mrs. Learner: Ladies, this meeting is to be entirely informal, and I

hope every one of the officers present will feel free to express her opinion. I suppose each one of us understands the object of this meeting. We have come together at our pastor's request to discuss the Auxiliary Circle Plan. If we decide that we approve the plan, Dr. Wiseman will call a mass meeting of the women of our congregation and take their vote as to whether or not our church shall adopt it.

Miss Waitstill Long: And suppose we don't approve?

Mrs. Learner: Then I suppose the matter will be dropped—for a time at least.

Mrs. Allgood (aside to Mrs. Holdfast): And I own that in that event I shall feel vastly relieved.

Mrs. Learner: I believe that we are supplied with copies of the Suggested Constitution.

Mrs. Olden: I understand from the constitution the objects and methods of the new organization, but what I do not understand is what is to become of our existing organizations.

Mrs. Learner: Oh, they are to be done away with at once.

All (in horrified astonishment): Done away with!

Miss Waitstill Long: But I thought we were to have circles! Why could we not have a Young Ladies' Benevolent and Missionary Circle just as we have now?

Mrs. Learner: Ladies, we cannot succeed with this new plan if we try to retain our old methods. We must clear away all our former organizations and start anew.

Mrs. Allgood and Mrs. Holdfast (gazing at each other): After all these years!

Miss Waitstill Long: What distresses me is the thought of giving up our name. The Young Ladies' Benevolent and Missionary Society was organized by Mary Younger's saintly grandmother, who was then our pastor's wife, and Jane Olden and I were two of the charter members.

Miss Younger: Madame Chairman, from what I've heard of my grandmother, she was a broad-minded and progressive woman. A Young Ladies' Benevolent and Missionary Society was an up-to-date thing in her day. Indeed she was rather ahead of the times in organizing one. I believe my grandmother, if she were living today, would be the very first to agree to let our old organizations pass, if by so doing we can make space for better things. (Nods of approval from several of the women, but Miss W. L. continues to shake her head.)

Mrs. Holdfast: Please tell us how the circles are formed and who arranges them.

Mrs. Learner: As soon as the officers are elected for the new Auxiliary they meet and arrange the circles. There may be a Business Women's Circle, a Home Circle to include shut-ins, non-residents and others, and any number of general circles. In short, the plan includes a place for every woman in the church, and the aim is to have every woman fill her place.

Mrs. Hustle: But what about the money? We couldn't possibly put our money together, for you know we don't do the same things at all.

Mrs. Learner: If we become an Auxiliary the officers will make out a budget for the year, and everything that any society has been doing will be included in it. All the gifts from the circles will be given to the entire

budget and all of us will be working for all the causes of the Church.

Mrs. I. S. Cream: Well, I'm sure the Ladies' Aid could never raise its money by any budget plan!

Mrs. Quilting: But, my dear Mrs. Cream, if we adopt the Auxiliary Plan there will be no Ladies' Aid!

Mrs. Allgood: Will the circles have separate or joint meetings?

Mrs. Learner: The circles will meet separately on one day in each month. Also on one day in each month all the women in the church are to come together in an Auxiliary meeting. If there are no other questions let us hear now from each officer her opinion of this whole matter.

Mrs. Olden: Our pastor's opinion has great weight with me. If Dr. Wiseman thinks we should try the plan I shall not oppose it.

Miss Waitstill Long (tearfully): I can't bear the idea of giving up the Young Ladies' Benevolent and Missionary Society!

Mrs. I. S. Cream: I like some parts of this thing, but I'm afraid that budget plan will not work.

Mrs. Hustle: But if we'll work, perhaps we can work the plan.

Mrs. Quilting: The best thing about this to me is the hope it offers of reaching all the women of the church instead of the "faithful few."

Mrs. Holdfast: The most helpful feature, in my opinion, is the idea of all giving to all causes of the Church.

Mrs. Allgood: But the thought of our women meeting all together, bound in one blest tie of Christian love, is the thought that warms my heart.

Miss Younger: Madame Chairman, the last three opinions have decided mine. If there is even the slightest chance that this Auxiliary Circle Plan will help to enlist all the women of the church, to induce them to give to all the causes, and to bring them all together, then it's a plan worth trying. I move, Madame Chairman, that we, the officers of the Women's Societies of the First church, improve the Auxiliary Circle Plan and recommend it to our women.

Four voices: I second the motion.

Mrs. Learner: It is moved and seconded that we approve the Auxiliary Circle Plan and recommend it to our women. Is there discussion? All in favor of this motion will please signify it by rising. (Miss Younger, Mrs. Allgood, Mrs. Holdfast, Mrs. Quilting and Mrs. Hustle rise promptly. Mrs. Olden rises slowly. Mrs. Cream, with evident reluctance, while Miss W. L. remains seated with her handkerchief to her eyes.)

Miss Younger: All together!

(Miss Long rises hesitatingly. The women join hands forming a circle.) End of Scene One.

Bring in results here that have actually occurred. It is a good place to emphasize your annual report, if given by a local society. Change text to suit your needs.

Scene Two: Six Months Later.

(Enter Mrs. Learner, Mrs. Holdfast, Mrs. Quilting, Mrs. Hustle, Miss Younger and Mrs. Olden.)

Mrs. Learner: We are early, are we not? Or else the other ten members of the Executive Committee are late.

Miss Younger: Yes, we are a few minutes ahead of time. Do you realize that it is six months ago to-day since we had our first meeting to consider the Auxiliary Circle Plan? I know none of us will ever forget the agony of reorganization. Suppose we have a little "experience meeting" and each tell what we think of the plan now. Mrs. Olden, will you speak first?

Mrs. Olden: I was not heartily in favor of the Circle Plan at first, but

now that I see its fruits, I could not give my consent to go back to our old way for any consideration.

Mrs. Learner: We have at least three times as many interested workers in the circle to which I belong as we formerly had in our three societies put together.

Mrs. Quilting: I have found that there is a place in our Auxiliary for every woman in our church—something that fits each one.

Mrs. Hustle: And how wonderfully our women have developed! There used to be just exactly three women in our church that would or could undertake to lead anything. And now think of our seven circle chairmen and our six secretaries of causes in addition to the other officers!

Miss Younger: Have you noticed how much more real sociability there is among our church women now? We enjoy our close association in circle meetings and committee work, and then so many more women attend the Auxiliary meetings that we've learned to know each other better.

Mrs. Holdfast: And we give so much more! Do you know that our Business Women's Circle has given more to missions in six months than our Ladies' Missionary Society gave in any six years of its existence? Then giving to all the causes and studying each cause and its needs has educated our women in the whole work of our church. We are learning to be intelligent givers.

Mrs. Learner: Our united prayers, too, have drawn us closer together. After all this is our real work—"helping together by prayer."

We are working toward these three aims—all the women, all the causes, all together—and for our work I believe we could not have chosen a better method than the Auxiliary Circle Plan.

Note: It is not too late to "put on" this simple but striking playlet at your Presbyterian.

Nine characters are needed. 5 cents. Order from the Woman's Auxiliary, Field Building, St. Louis, Mo.

SOME ADDED ADVANTAGES OF THE AUXILIARY CIRCLE PLAN.

Dear friends in the Missionary Societies:

The Auxiliary Circle Plan develops leaders.

The following testimonials are from pastors who have the plan working in their churches:

"People, who formerly took no part in anything, are now efficient leaders in circles and other departments of work."—William Ray Dobyns, St. Joseph, Mo.

"Composed of a small definite number, they feel a personal and individual responsibility, and a friendly rivalry has been created between the different circles, each trying to surpass the other."—E. M. Green, Danville, Ky.

"Many who never could be brought into the old society now active and interested members."—James H. Hendelrite, Gastonia, N. C.

"If any church wants to find its true strength in its women membership, let it try the Auxiliary plan."—P. H. Pleune, Paducah, Ky.

"It develops latent talent into leadership."—C. S. Newman, Gulfport, Miss.

"It develops the future leaders as circle chairmen so that they are fitted for the main Auxiliary official positions."—J. E. Hixson, Memphis, Tenn.

"It is sane, systematic, inclusive. With its circles, it makes a place for the last woman in the work of the